

Shipping

[illegible]

'FRAGRANT WATERS' MURMUR.

That perhaps the most remarkable, if not the most important, incident of the week is the lesson read by the Government to the journalists of the Colony.

That I was astonished to find a few harmless remarks which appeared in this column had given H. E. the Governor the opportunity for firing off such a wondrous counterblast.

That you can imagine my surprise, but what is the use of saying anything when the Government in Crown Colony is being felt so keenly, it is a mistake for a Governor of a Crown Colony to make a glaring blunder as he did in this case.

That this may be an Irish, way of putting it, perhaps, but it is nevertheless comprehensible.

That, whatever cause the Governor could have had for accusing other people of having sided against him or his staff, I know he had no reason to do so in your case.

That it may be quite a new departure in journalism for a respectable paper to answer a call for a withdrawal and apology, made by the Governor of a Colony, with a similar call of 'one better.'

That at the same time, you were simply justified in so doing, and I think you carry the opinion of the Colony with you in that curious turn of the tide.

That, of course, the Governor, who is the Queen's Representative, who is the wrong, and perhaps it would seem his influence here if he acknowledged that he had done wrong in this instance.

That, at the same time, he has missed an opportunity (as I take it) of withdrawing from an awkward position, which could easily have been done without seriously lessening the gubernatorial dignity.

That, as the case stands now, the result is left to the decision of the public; and there can be very little doubt as to the final opinion which will be formed.

That it is a pity, on one hand, because the case of fairness as represented by a Governor of a Crown Colony, unbacked by any power outside of Parliament, has hitherto been one of our greatest securities.

That in the instance (curiously enough) taken place in the incidents of the week.

That I have persistently pointed out the curious result of the legislation which threw the burden of Plague Suppression upon Amateur Administrators, instead of upon the Government.

That I have never been clearly explained why the Government did not change all this when the crisis came, and take over the responsibility of fighting the new enemy.

That some cantankerous people might have said this was left undone in order to test the power or the weakness of the Amateurs who were detailed to do the work.

That this charge is met by the fact that the Official element was well represented; and I have always asserted that the men from the Government did their part of the work nobly.

That in the subsequent proceedings the Government has not embraced the opportunity of showing their full appreciation of the Unofficial element.

That nearly all the recognition has been done by the community—not by the Government.

That the inkstand episode has been sufficiently ventilated.

That, although I think Mr. Francis could have abbreviated his letter, he could not very well have lessened his grievances against the Government.

That all the same, he should have posed more as the Voluntary Unofficial, than as the local G.O., who had given up his time to the common weal.

That on the 14th, some other inkstands are being bestowed, then the disregard of the feelings of the Chairman of the Permanent Committee and of the public is all the more marked.

That I hear the next meeting of Legislative Council was postponed for reasons connected with the Taipingshan Remuneration.

That this may or may not be correct, and I trust you will not be called upon to withdraw or apologise for the statement.

That the fact remains that opinions are not unanimous about the inkstand proposals for the treatment of Taipingshan.

That of course only the members of the Public Works Committee of the Legislative Council have seen the plan of reconstruction, and the report published in the Gazette over Mr. Cooper's name reads like a series of illustrations without the necessary diagrams.

That, so far as I can judge, a great necessity exists for a Committee to sit—not upon Mr. Cooper, but—upon the aforesaid Report.

That the questions raised by medical experts may have suffered a change during the last eight or nine months, though it is curious Dr. Yee and Kitchener are the only professional names mentioned in the report.

That burning may or may not be necessary now, but our little doubt about the expert authorities should be consulted.

That Mr. Cooper may be competent to regulate the expenditure of any amount of money unaided, but, if the Executive is wise, it will give him assistance in so doing.

That the question of interest on any large loans laid upon the consciences of heads of the P. W. D., if we may judge by the absence of special mention of the item.

That as the only object of the reconstruction is the production of a sanitary kind in as cheap and speedy a manner as can be effected, I fancy the best way to effect this is to help the Government with the best local advice.

That this can be obtained by the appointment of a Technical-Advisory Committee.

That I am the Director of Public Works refer to the amount of private property resumed, but he says nothing of public land within the condemned area.

That as the amount involved, including interest, may exceed one million dollars, perhaps the guidance of a Commission would be healthy.

That I see the Formosan Intelligencer has assumed the route, and it may be as suggested the Japanese are on the 'Beautiful Isle' with the full approval of the Chinese.

That the Japanese will doubtless see that the Chinese pay to the full for this variation in the Treaty brought about by the necessity of taking Formosa, instead of occupying it in a peaceful manner.

That there is a little doubt about the result, although we have not heard how many Japanese have landed; but what about the Chinese forces after they have run away from Formosa.

That the interest may change then from Formosa to Kwangtung?

That no one can tell where the end will be.

BROWNIE.

A NATIVE paper (says the Kobo Chronicle) reports that the first batch of Japanese soldiers for Formosa will include a number of well-dressed and well-equipped troops. It is said that the Japanese are in a very good mood, and that they are well equipped with the latest weapons.

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THE DEPARTURE OF LI HAN-CHANG.

We learn from the Chinese Mail (Wah Tsai Yat Po) that the ex-Viceroy of Canton Li Han-chang is to start to-day from the Naval College at Whampoa, where he is at present residing, for his home in Anhui. Several of the officials, who had enjoyed his good will during his tenure of office, have gone to his residence to bid him farewell, but there is a conspicuous absence of a popular demonstration to give him a hearty 'send-off,' as was done at the departure of his predecessor, H. E. Chang Chih-tang. He is not missed by anybody, except his chosen few, at Canton.

CLAN FIGHTS NEAR CANTON.

GRUPELLE BASTARDY.

Gruesome details concerning the recent clan fight between the Yung and Li in San U district continue to be received by the Chinese Mail (Wah Tsai Yat Po). At the time of the marching of the Li clan into the enemy's village on looting intent, some of the villagers got so scared as to seek to relieve their fears by jumping into the wells to be drowned there, while in one family six members ended their existence by hanging themselves from the rafters. A few were taken prisoners by the Li clan and disposed of with shocking brutality. Some of these unfortunates were wrapped over with cotton soaked with oil and made big candles of, while others were skinned alive and dismembered. The distress of the defeated clan baffles description. With nearly all the houses burned to the ground, the majority of them were rendered homeless and homeless, and had to throw themselves on the neighbouring villagers, who provided them shelter in a big ancestral temple and gave them food. The fearful fight has ceased now, but both parties have not yet given up their enmity, that is the participants in the fight, although demanded by the military officer sent from Canton to restore order.

INKSTANDS.

(H. E. the Governor's letter.)

'Come hither to me O G.O.'—Paddy May has got a C.M.G. But I really think this stand for ink. Sufficient reward for a Secretary.

'What cheek (with blank) I deduce with thanks.'—Your present or filthy lucre.

To rescue H. E. C. the P. W. D. That's the reason they say, Crook took out.

[Note by the Editor.—Our correspondent has had to make 'inkstand' feminine, but not very well. He has lessened his grievance against the Government.]

THE M.M. steamer *Ernest Simon*, which left Colombo on her homeward voyage on the 18th of March, says the *Argonaut* (London), reached Marseilles on the 14th of April at 10 p.m., having made the run in 14 days, or three days less than the usual time. From Colombo Straits to Marseilles she took only 12 hours. But her commander is not yet satisfied, for on the above trip she lost 20 hours at Colombo, and then she arrived at Alexandria at night-time and lost another 10 hours as a result. On the next voyage back, he says, he will do the journey to Marseilles in thirteen days. In the course of the last voyage the steamer's average was nearly 10 knots per hour.

Sir Raylton Dixon and Co., Middleborough, have launched a steel screw steamer named *Afridi*, of about 5,000 tons deadweight, carrying capacity built to the order of the Mogul Steamship Company, which Messrs Gallely, Hankey, Sewell, and Co., of London, are managers. She is intended for the China tea trade. Her dimensions are 372 ft. by 42 ft. 6 in. by 28 ft. 6 in. Triple-expansion engines will be fitted by the Welland Slipway and Engineering Company, Limited, with cylinders 27 in., 44 in., and 72 in. by 45 in. stroke, provided with steam by three single-ended boilers working at 170 lb. pressure, and fitted with Howden's system of forced draught.

Six Francis Fleming met with an enthusiastic reception on his arrival at Antigua to assume the duties of Governor of the Leeward Islands. He is an able administrator, and is likely to set the affairs of his scattered government in order at an early date, if his services at Sierra Leone are to count for anything at all. It is generally admitted that he was one of the best Governors Sierra Leone has had, and the unexpected severance of his connection with that Colony was much regretted. Lady Fleming has left England to join her husband, and to perform her part of the duties connected with the affairs of Government House, Colonies and India.

Ten deaths of two seasons have taken place in Kobe within the last few days (says the *Kobe Chronicle* of the 21st ult.) under such circumstances as to demand a inquiry. The names of the men are James Brown, formerly of the ship *J. B. Thomas*, and U. Anderson, formerly of the *Druidical*. Brown died on Saturday and Anderson on Sunday, both having paid visits to the Japanese grove in one of the narrow lanes running from Sakai-machi to Moto-machi, where a vine decoration is sold for five cents a glass and described as whisky, but which should properly be labelled poison. It is to be hoped that an investigation will be made into the deaths of these men, and the attention of the authorities directed to the existence of these groves and the vile stuff sold there.

W. Robinson and Company for the highest class Piano Tuning and Repairing.

The Health and Vigor of an individual depend upon the quality and quantity of the Blood. When the Blood is bad, the body is weak, and the mind is troubled. It is therefore of great importance to keep the Blood pure and healthy. The best way to do this is by using a good Blood Purifier. The *Chinese Mail* recommends the use of the *Blood Purifier* for this purpose.

THE 'TAIYUAN-FORFAIT' INCIDENT.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence has been forwarded to us for publication:—

Hongkong, Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th April, 1895.

Gentlemen,—With reference to my letter No. 2146 of the 21st October last, I am directed to transmit for your information the enclosed copy of a memorandum from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to the incident which occurred in October last between the French cruiser *Forfait* and the British steamship *Taiyuan* upon the high seas. I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant.

J. G. T. BUCKLE, Colonial Secretary.

Messrs Butterfield & Swire, Esq., & Co., & Co.

According to a communication received from the French Consul at Hongkong, the local authorities were investigating, during the month of October last, an incident that happened at sea between the cruiser *Forfait* and the English steamer *Taiyuan*. The articles published in the Hongkong newspapers on the subject report that, without any apparent reason, the *Forfait* fired twice at the *Taiyuan*. The Minister of Foreign Affairs having applied to the Minister of Marine for a report on the affair, he had communicated to him a report by the Commandant of the *Forfait*. It appears from the explanation given by the latter officer that the *Taiyuan* had been fired at by the *Forfait* because the latter had mistaken her for a vessel of the Japanese fleet. The *Taiyuan* had been fired at by the *Forfait* because the latter had mistaken her for a vessel of the Japanese fleet. The *Taiyuan* had been fired at by the *Forfait* because the latter had mistaken her for a vessel of the Japanese fleet.

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The Japanese have landed at Taipei.

ANOTHER BYE ELECTION.

Mr Macleod, the Unionist Candidate, has been elected for West Edinburgh, defeating Mr Murray, the Liberal Candidate, by a majority of seven hundred, an increase of two hundred on the previous election.

LORD ROSEBURY.

Lord Rosebury is proceeding on a further yachting cruise for 10 days.

THE FRENCH IN MADAGASCAR.

General Duchesne has joined forces with General Metzinger, who continues his advance upon Antananarivo. The Houas have abandoned several towns without fighting. Three Sakalava chiefs have submitted to the French.

THE LATE MARSHAL MACMAHON.

France will send delegates to the inauguration at Magenta of the monument to the late Marshal MacMahon.

THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

It is generally hoped that a settlement of the Egyptian question will be arrived at soon, with the assistance of Russia.

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What is the most striking instance of journalistic enterprise on record? I fancy it would be hard to beat the following case. I remember being told that in America a reporter was despatched from New York to the distant scene of an execution. On arrival, he found that the execution was fixed for noon—a future joke on his too late for him to get off his dispatch in time. Nothing daunted, he went to the sheriff and implored that official to put the execution forward. The sheriff naturally refused, but was ultimately so far talked round as to promise to alter the change. If the person chiefly concerned made no objection, the reporter, in accordance with the usual custom in America, was admitted to the condemned cell, where he explained his errand to the occupant. Drinks were freely partaken of, and the reporter made himself so agreeable that the prisoner was hanged in his time to oblige so pleasant a fellow. The sheriff was so good as his word, and the reporter got off in good time a full, fair, and particular account of the execution.—*W. Budget.*

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'It will suffer this, the land of our hearts and homes will become the land of savages and barbarians, but if we do not suffer it, our condition of comparative weakness will certainly not endure long.

'Frequent conferences have been held with the Foreign Powers, who all aver that the people of Formosa must establish their independence before the powers will assist them.

'Now therefore we, the people of Formosa, are irresistibly resolved to die, and we have in Council determined to convert the whole island of Formosa into a Republic. State and that the administration of all our state affairs shall be organized and carried on by the deliberations and decisions of the Officers' Assembly elected by the people. But as this enterprise, there is needed, as well for the resistance of Japanese aggression as for the organization of the new Administration, a man to have chief control, in whom authority shall be vested, and who shall be able to support the new Republic, we have long held the Governor, and Commander in Chief Chang Ching-sung, to be in council determined to raise him to the position of President of the Republic.

'An official seal has been cut on the 26th of May (25th), and will be publicly presented with all respect by the notables and people of the whole of Formosa. At early dawn on that day, all of us, notables and people, farmers and merchants, artists and tradesmen, must assemble at the main gate of the Government, and we may in grave and solemn manner inaugurate this under taking. Let there be neither delay nor mistakes.

'A Declaration of the whole of Formosa. (Sealed in due form.) An announcement by the whole of Formosa. The whole of Formosa is hereby declared to be a Republic. The whole of Formosa is hereby declared to be a Republic. The whole of Formosa is hereby declared to be a Republic.

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THE WATER SUPPLY.

To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL.'

Hongkong, June 1.

Sir,—I suppose it would be too presumptuous to suggest that the Government should stop the stock of 'handcannon' silver ingots by presenting one to the person who can answer the following question:—

'Why is it that those who live in the "lower regions" during the drought, get only a small supply of water, while those who live in the "upper regions" enjoy an uninterrupted supply for the 24 hours of each day?'

Some mean fellow suggested to me that the answer may be found in the fact that the P. W. D. officials live topside. The brute!

Yours, AQA.

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